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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02101 131023 Z

46
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 T-03 OMB-01 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 PC-04 RSR-01

/124 W

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R 130952 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8315
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E. O. 11652; N/ A
TAGS: MOPS IN, PK
SUBJ: INDO/ PAK: EXCHANGE OF CIVILIAN POWS

1, LATEST EXCHANGE OF INDIAN AND PAKISTANI CIVILIAN POWS TOOK PLACE AT ATTARI/ WAGAH LAND BORDER MARCH 10, ARRANGED BY ICRC. GOP HANDED OVER 79 INDIAN SEAMEN IN EXCHANGE FOR 253 PAKISTANIS FROM INDIA, INCLUDING CREWS AND PASSENGERS OF 4 PAKISTANI MERCHANT SHIPS CAPTURED DURING 1971 WAR. PRESS REPORTS IDENTIFIED NUMBER OF RETURNING PAKISTANIS AS " BIHARIS".

2. LOCAL PCVSS QUOTED VARIOUS RETURNEES AS COMPLAINING OF HARSH TREATMENT AND TORTURE BY INDIANS. ONE SEAMAN FROM NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE ALPGEDLY TOLD REPORTERS THAT " INDIAN SECURITY PEOPLE" HAD ATTEMPTED TO SUBVERT MILITARY POWS FROM THAT PROVINCE IN ORDER TO CONVINCE THEM, UPON THEIR RETURN HOME, TO
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" STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE", SAYING INDIA WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT THEM. OTHER SEAMEN CLAIMED THAT MILITARY POWS IN INDIA HAD ASKED THEM TO CONVEY TO GOP THEIR FEELING THAT PAKISTAN SHOULD NOT RECOGNIZE BANGLADESH. BIHARIS WERE QUOTED AS HAVING SAID THEY FLED FROM MARAUDING MUKTI BIHINI IN EAST PAKISTAN ONLY TO BE CAPTURED ON HIGH SEAS. THEY CLAIMED THEY WANTED TO RETURN TO BANGLA-DESH, BUT THAT GOI FORCED THEM TO COME TO PAKISTAN.

3. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT- CONTROLLED PRESS JUXTAPOSED " HORROR STORIES" OF RETURNING PAKISTANIS AND REPORTS THAT DEPARTING INDIAN PRISIONERS PRAISED GOP TREATMENT. (FOR INSTANCE, LOCAL READERS WERE TREATED TO REPORT THAT RETURNING PAKISTANI OFFICERS HAD NOT ONLY BEEN TORTURED WITH ELECTRIC SHOCKS BUT HAD BEEN FORCED TO PERFORM " MENIAL JOBS".) BOTH ARE STANDARD ELEMENTS OF PROPAGANDA EFFORT MOUNTED WHENEVER POWS ARE EXCHANGED. RAWALPINDI PAKISTAN TIMES SOUNDED THEME WITH HEADLINE THAT GROUP HAD COME " BACK FROM HELL".
DECON 9/12/73
SOBER

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: INDO/ PAK: EXCHANGE OF CIVILIAN POWS
TAGS: MOPS, IN, PK
To: DACCA
GENEVA
KARACHI
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NEA
NEW DELHI
SECSTATE WASHDC

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